

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources  
Environmental Protection Commission**

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**ITEM**

**18**

**DECISION**

**TOPIC**

**Contract with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for LiDAR topography data**

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The USGS negotiated a sole source, indefinite quantity, contract to acquire LiDAR topography data across the United States.

The DNR strongly believes LiDAR will provide tremendous environmental benefits to the state in terms of improved water quality modeling; conservation practice placement, design, and implementation; and flood plain delineations. As such, the DNR has actively pursued partnerships with other agencies including NRCS, DOT, and the Corps of Engineers to fund the data acquisition. To date, partners have verbally committed funding for one half of the money needed (\$2 million) to acquire LiDAR for the state. We are waiting for levels of commitment from the Iowa Department of Transportation and the US Army Corps of Engineers. If these partners commit the remaining one half, we would like to proceed with the statewide project. If they fail to commit any resources to this effort, we intend to proceed with collection over approximately one half of the state.

We must commit to a contract with the US Geological Survey on or before June 30, 2006. At this time, there are commitments from the NRCS and from our own DNR resources for \$2 million. We hope to get commitments for another 2 to 3 million dollars before June 30. We, of course, will report back to you on the final amount with the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities to extend the current services to December 31, 2007.

Also included in this item is a LiDAR brochure that will hopefully provide some insight into LiDAR technology and some potential applications of the data.

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